Consensus on Women's Reservation Bill

630. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Women Power Connect (WPC), a national level organization consisting of 500 groups and individuals working togetherwith the aim of formalizing the process of legislative coordination to generate awareness about 33 per cent reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies;

(b) whether any consensus has so far arrived amongst the political parties/groups in Parliament on the provisions of the proposed Bill; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to bring forward any suitable legislation in this regard during the forthcoming Budget Session of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With the objective of evolving a consensus on Women Reservation Bill, a meeting was called by the Chairperson of United Progressive Alliance (UPA) on 22.8.2005 in which the constituents of UPA and Left Parties participated and subsequently the Hon'ble Prime Minister held a meeting with the Leaders of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and other Leaders on 24th August, 2005. However, there was no consensus on the provisions of the Bill in both the above meetings. The main objection to the concept of reservation for women in Lok Sabha appears to arise from the rotational phenomenon which would break the link between the Member of Parliament and his/her constituency. These apprehensions are required to be removed before the Government could bring a new Bill in the Parliament.

Pending cases in Supreme Court

†631. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of criminal cases lying pending at present in the Supreme Court;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of cases disposed of by Fast Track Courts during the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the number of Fast Tract Courts; and

(d) if so, by when their number would be increased?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The information is being obtained.

(b) As per available information, Fast Track Courts have disposed of 956480 cases during the last three years i.e. 2004 to 2006.

(c) and (d) Presently there is no such proposal to increase the number of Fast Track Courts.

Review of strength of judges in High Courts

632. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mandated review of judges strength in various High Courts which was to be taken up in 2006 had been taken up;

(b) if so, whether analysis submitted by various High Courts has been studied by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of analysis submitted by High Court of Andhra Pradesh;

(e) the decision taken by Government thereon;

(f) what are the reasons that, in spite of recommending for creation of 94 posts of judges in various High Courts in the 2003 review, Government could not fill all the posts; and

(g) the additional posts of judges given to Andhra Pradesh High Court in the 2003 review?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) As per the guidelines for increase in judge strength, only eight